

(17th October 2024)

International

First ASEAN-India Track 1 Cyber Policy Dialogue

The First ASEAN-India Track 1 Cyber Policy Dialogue was held in Singapore on October 16. The dialogue co-chaired by Joint Secretary, Cyber Diplomacy Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Amit A. Shukla, explored cooperation in capacity building and training to identify specific areas of activities. During the course of the dialogue, both sides exchanged views on the cyber threat landscape, national cyber policies, threat assessment, and the recent developments in the ICT domain at the United Nations.

SCO, Islamabad Summit Concludes.

The 23rd meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government concluded in Islamabad on October 16, with the signing of eight key documents. Minister of External Affairs S. Jaishankar represented India at the summit.

The documents signed by the SCO countries in Pakistan were proposals for an Economic Dialogue Programme and new economic strategy, cooperation between the trade promotion organisations of the SCO member states, cooperation in the field of “creative economy” development, and the passing of the SCO’s annual budget.

The SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting will be held in Russia next year and the SCO Heads of State summit in China.

Liam Payne no more

One Direction singer Liam Payne died after falling from the balcony on the third floor of a hotel in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The 31-year-old was found outside the Casa Sur Hotel in the city’s Palermo neighbourhood.

National

International Abhidhamma Divas

The International Buddhist Confederation in association with the Culture Ministry is observing the International Abhidhamma Divas. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the celebrations of the Abhidhamma Divas and the recognition of Pali as a classical language in New Delhi on October 17. Abhidhamma Divas commemorates the descent of Lord Buddha from

the celestial realm of the thirty-three divine beings to Sankassiya, known today as Sankisa Basantapur in Farrukhabad district of Uttar Pradesh.

Eight responsible AI projects selected

The IndiaAI Mission has selected eight responsible AI projects in response to the Expression of Interest (EoI) issued under the Safe and Trusted AI Pillar.

The IndiaAI has also issued an Expression of Interest to promote responsible AI projects across a range of critical themes Machine Unlearning, Synthetic Data Generation, AI Bias Mitigation, Ethical AI Frameworks, Privacy-Enhancing Tools, Explainable AI, AI Governance Testing, and Algorithm Auditing Tools.

International methanol seminar and expo 2024

NITI Aayog will organise a two-day international methanol seminar and expo 2024 in New Delhi starting October 17. The event will be held in collaboration with the Methanol Institute of the United States. The progress of projects, products, and Research and Development initiatives related to Methanol production, application, and allied technological developments will be discussed.

Valmiki Jayanti

Valmiki Jayanti, which marks the birth anniversary of Maharishi Valmiki, the author of Ramayana is being celebrated across the country today. Maharishi Valmiki is also revered as the ‘Adi Kavi’ or the first poet of the Sanskrit language. Members of the Valmiki sect celebrate Pargat Diwas with great devotion. A procession called Shobha Yatra is also taken out to mark the occasion.

The first-ever International Festival on Indian Dance in New Delhi.

The International Festival on Indian Dance is being held in New Delhi from 16 to 21 October. The six-day festival is hosted by the Sangeet Natak Akademi. The event brings together artists, scholars, and students to celebrate and explore the diversity and richness of Indian dance forms.

Hike in DA, MSP for Rabi crops

The government approved increasing the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for rabi crops for the marketing season 2025-26, rapeseed and mustard MSP were given a maximum increase of

300 rupees per quintal followed by Lentil at 275 rupees per quintal, gram MSP has been increased 210 rupees per quintal and wheat has been 150 rupees per quintal.

The Union Cabinet also approved a three percent increase in Dearness Allowance (DA) for Central Government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) for pensioners.

The Seventh Session of the International Solar Alliance Assembly

The Seventh Session of the International Solar Alliance Assembly will be held at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi from 3rd November to 6th November. The ISA Assembly will discuss initiatives of the International Solar Alliance, ISA that impact energy access, security, and traditions with a focus on empowering member countries to adopt solar energy and mobilize finance to speed up solar deployment.

Business/Economy

BEML awarded the contract for the country's first indigenously designed and manufactured high-speed train contract

BEML Limited has been awarded a contract valued at ₹866.87 crore by Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai, for the design, manufacture, and commissioning of two high-speed trainsets, each comprising eight cars.

The country's first indigenously designed and manufactured high-speed train with a test speed of 280 km per hour will be built at BEML Limited's Bengaluru rail coach complex

Partha Pratim Sengupta will be the MD and CEO of Bandhan Bank

RBI has approved the appointment of Partha Pratim Sengupta as the MD and CEO of Bandhan

Bank for a period of three years. He is expected to take charge before November 10, 2024.

Abu Dhabi's distinction

Abu Dhabi is the world's wealthiest city as of October 2024, in terms of assets managed by its sovereign wealth funds (SWFs), overtaking cities like Oslo, Beijing, and Singapore. A recent report by Global SWF estimates that Abu Dhabi's SWFs manage assets worth USD 1.7 trillion.

India's semiconductor market boom

India's semiconductor market is set to exceed 100 billion dollars by 2030. The market was valued at 45 billion dollars in 2023 and is expected to grow at 13 percent annually. This growth is driven by strong demand and government initiatives like the production-linked incentive scheme.

Sports

The 27th All India Forest Sports Meet

The 27th All India Forest Sports Meet started today in Raipur, the capital of Chhattisgarh. The 5-day sports meet will continue till October 20. About 3 thousand athletes from 29 states and 10 union territories are participating in this event. The Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Vishnu Deo Sai inaugurated the sports meet. Indian T-20 cricket team captain Suryakumar Yadav was also present on this occasion.

Bronze for Akhil Sheroan

Akhil Sheroan of India bagged a bronze medal in the 50 m Rifle 3P event at the ISSF World Cup Final in New Delhi. This is his second medal for India so far.